

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2582

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 9532

FOR EUR/WE MRS. SHIRLEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, BE

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON LUCIEN G.F.P. COOREMANS,
MAYOR OF BRUSSELS

1. COOREMANS WAS BORN AT BRUSSELS IN 1899. HE RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE IN LAW AND FINANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS, WHERE HE LATER SERVED AS A PROFESSOR IN PRESS RIGHTS. AT 26 HE BECAME PRIVATE SECRETARY OF PAUL HYMAN, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

2. DURING WWII, COOREMANS WAS CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE SERVICES FOR THE BELGIAN SECRET ARMY.

3. HE ENTERED MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN 1933 AND WAS APPOINTED MAYOR OF BRUSSELS IN FEBRUARY 1956, A POSITION HE CONTINUES TO HOLD. MR. COOREMANS ALSO SERVED AS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT UNTIL NOVEMBER 1960, WHEN HE RESIGNED FROM HIS SEAT STATING THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO DO JUSTICE TO BOTH JOBS.

4. THE MAUOR WAS FORMERLY MANAGING-DIRECTOR OF BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND, AT PRESENT, IS PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF INTERNATIONAL FAIRS.

5. IN RECENT YEARS HE HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY REMOVED FROM LOCAL
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POLITICS THOUGH HE REMAINS A SIGNIFICANT ELDER STATEMAN OF

THE LIBERAL PARTY (PLP).

6. HE MAY BE ADDRESSED AS MR. MAYOR. COOREMANS IS A FRANCOPHONE
AND SPEAKS A LITTLE DUTCH. HE SPEAKS PRACTICALLY NO ENGLISH.

7. COOREMANS IS A WIDOWER.FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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